

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A network device comprising:

a first connection section configured to be  
connected to a first network;

5 a second connection section configured to be  
connected to a second network different from the first  
network;

a control section configured to detect equipment  
connected to the second network through the second  
10 connection section, to generate identification  
information by which the detected equipment is added to  
the first network, and to transmit the information to  
the first network through the first connection section.

2. A network device according to claim 1, wherein

15 the control section comprises a reset section  
configured to require reconstruction that equipment  
connected to the second network is added to the first  
network in a state where there is caused a change in  
any one of the number of equipment connected to the  
20 second network and information on the equipment  
connected to the second network.

3. A network device according to claim 1, wherein

the control section comprises a transfer section  
configured to receive data supplied from the first  
25 network through the first connection section, to  
specify equipment connected to the second network from  
identification information included in the data, and to

transmit the data to the specified equipment.

4. A network device according to claim 1, wherein the control section comprises:

5 a quantity detection section configured to detect the number of equipment connected to the second network through the second connection section;

an assignment section configured to generate the same number of identification information as that of the equipment detected by the quantity detection  
10 section, and to assign the information to the equipment connected to the second network, respectively; and

a transmitting section configured to transmit the identification information generated by the assignment  
15 section to the first network through the first connection section.

5. A network device according to claim 4, wherein the control section comprises:

an information collection section configured to collect information on the equipment connected to the  
20 second network through the second connection section; and

a reset section configured to require reconstruction that the equipment connected to the second network is added to the first network in a state  
25 where there is caused a change in any one of the number of equipment detected by the quantity detection section and information which has been collected by the

information collection section.

6. A network device according to claim 4, wherein the control section comprises:

5 an information collection section configured to collect information on equipment connected to the second network through the second connection section;

10 a storage section configured to store information collected by the information collection section and identification information generated by the assignment section in relation to each other; and

15 a transfer section configured to receive data supplied from the first network through the first connection section, to specify equipment connected to the second network, using the identification information included in the data and the contents stored in the storage section, and to transmit the data to the specified equipment.

20 7. A network method of making data transmission between a first network and a second network different from the first network, comprising:

requiring construction by which equipment connected to the second network is added to the first network; and

25 transmitting identification information, by which equipment connected to the second network is added to the first network, to the first network in a state where the construction is required.

8. A network method according to claim 7, wherein the requiring construction is executed in a state where there is caused a change in any one of the number of equipment connected to the second network and  
5 information on the equipment connected to the second network.

9. A network method according to claim 7, further comprising:

receiving data supplied from the first network;  
10 specifying equipment connected to the second network from the identification information included in the data and transmitting the data to the specified equipment.

10. A network method according to claim 7, wherein  
15 the transmitting the identification information comprises:

detecting the number of equipment connected to the second network;

generating the same number of identification  
20 information as that of the detected equipment and assigning the identification information to the equipment connected to the second network; and

transmitting the identification information, which have been assigned, to the first network.

25 11. A network method according to claim 10, wherein the requiring construction is executed in a state where, after information on the equipment

connected to the second network are collected, there is caused a change in any one of the collected information on the equipment and the detected number of the equipment.

5           12. A network method according to claim 10, further comprising:

collecting information on the equipment connected to the second network;

10           storing the collected pieces of information and the assigned identification information in relation to each other; and

15           receiving data supplied from the first network, specifying the equipment connected to the second network, using the stored contents from the identification information included in the data and transmitting the data to the specified equipment.